



WHAT CAN GO WRONG AND WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENT EFFECTS ?

- ❗ Contamination from a septic tank or a pit latrine can increase the risk for diarrhoeal diseases, such as “Campy” (Campylobacteriosis), “Gastro” (Gastroenteritis) and “Shigella” (Shigellosis) from **bacteriological contamination** of the water.
- ❗ Seepage from other sources, such as industries or petrol tanks, can lead to other health and or aesthetic effects consequent to **contamination of the water**.
- ❗ During **droughts**, the ground water quality can deteriorate, because the feed rates to the borehole is lower and this can result in the concentration of salts in the water. We refer to this situation as **mineralisation**.
- ❗ When the ground water source is **over-exploited**, the yield from the water source is reduced, which could **draw polluted ground water to the point of abstraction**.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW?

- ❗ Bacteriological contamination can lead to:
 - ✓ Diarrhoeal disease
 - ✓ Off tastes and odours of the water.
 - ✓ Odours of the water.
- ❗ Physical inspection may reveal potential contamination from the close proximity of other sources of contaminants.
- ❗ Analysis of the water may need to be performed to ascertain the nature of any contaminants present.

WHAT TO DO?

- ❗ Disinfect the water by:
 - ✓ Boiling
 - ✓ Adding bleach (in the case of bacteriological contamination)
- ❗ Use another safer water source.
- ❗ Inform the relevant authority for action
- ❗ Use water only for washing and flushing toilets in the case of serious contamination where the water is in the red or purple class (see fact sheet on the classification of water)
- ❗ In the case of over-exploitation, use alternative water sources to allow the groundwater source to recover.